

winning John Deere "Gold Star" full line residential and commercial grounds equipment dealership. The company is a tale of entrepreneurial success, as the business started with 15 employees and increased to 85 employees today.

Fresno Equipment Co. has been actively involved with the Nisei Farmers League in promoting improved air quality in the Valley. Additionally, the company has participated in various roles in the Big Fresno Fair, Fresno State football, Grizzlies baseball, Ag Boosters BBQ, Children's Hospital of Central California, California Agriculture Leadership, Fresno Chamber of Commerce, St. Jude Church, Armenian Congregational Church, California Grape and Tree Fruit League and the livestock sale at the Fresno Fair.

Fresno Equipment Co. is a recognized agricultural business-leader in our community and its prominence and reputation will contribute to the Valley economy for years to come. Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Steve and Marsha as well as their predecessors for a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AVALON ACADEMY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the 5th anniversary of the Avalon Academy in Burlingame, California. This very special school was founded by Annie Noonan and Lynette Mullens, parents of children with cerebral palsy, and Kinga Czegeni, a special education teacher. The trio had a vision for a school that would teach academics and motor—skill development to children with movement disorders such as cerebral palsy. It should be noted that the students often have multiple disabilities, including cognitive impairment.

Avalon prides itself on its innovative intervention program inspired by the Anat Baniel Method, a cutting edge scientific approach to safely enhance movement and muscle coordination and to create new possibilities for children with cerebral palsy. This humanizing approach has created a non-competitive, vibrant and nurturing environment that benefits not only the students, but also their families and the staff at Avalon.

I would be remiss if I didn't praise Annie, Lynette, and Kinga for devoting their full energies to enhancing the lives of children with cerebral palsy. We can make donations, smile and understand, but it takes tireless effort to create a learning place that make a special life even better.

Madam Speaker, I can't take you inside Avalon today, but if I could, you would see a very special love that exists among the students and staff and a level of caring that has changed lives. So, I ask the Members to join me in celebrating a dream that thankfully has become a reality for dozens of children and families with special needs.

HONORING ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Vincent Catholic High School in Perryville, MO, which was recently named to the list of the best 50 Catholic secondary schools in America. The list is compiled by the Catholic High School Honor Roll, an independent project of the Grand Rapids, Michigan-based Acton Institute, a research and education organization. Around one-half of all U.S. Catholic high schools go through the application process for the Honor Roll list, a group of approximately 1,300 schools. These schools are recognized based on their academic excellence, civic education and Catholic identity. Schools provide extensive data on standardized testing and other academic measures, and administrators answer surveys on academics, Catholic teaching and social studies.

St. Vincent High School is a part of the history of Perryville. The parish was first established in the 19th century. The Daughters of Charity began the school in 1907. Over more than a century the school has maintained its commitment to educating their students in a faith based way that helps them spiritually and to prepare for the future. The students, faculty, and families involved in St. Vincent High School provide a wonderful example to schools all across Southeast Missouri and the nation. This recognition encourages their hard work and continued excellence in Catholic education.

This is an outstanding achievement in which the St. Vincent High School and all of the surrounding community should take pride. One of the best Catholic schools in the nation is St. Vincent High School. Congratulations again to the St. Vincent High School community. We are all very proud of you!

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF NEIL ZURCHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of award-winning journalist, Neil Zurcher, one of the most beloved and recognizable media personalities in northeast Ohio, upon the joyous occasion of his 75th birthday.

For more than fifty years, Mr. Zurcher's entertaining accounts of unique and out-of-the-way destinations across Ohio have been found on radio and television and travel sections of magazines and newspapers, including his regular column in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. He was the original host of the immensely popular travel segment: "One Tank Trips," which was broadcast for 25 years on FOX 8 TV in Cleveland.

Driving more than a million miles in 25 years as a travel reporter for FOX 8, Mr. Zurcher uncovered hidden treasures, oddities and beautiful get-away destinations along the

urban highways and country roads of Ohio. His accounts and insights into the diverse people, customs, culture and history of Ohio are recorded in the five books he's written, including "Tales from the Road," "Ohio Road Trips," and "Ohio Oddities." A kind, generous and down-to-earth man, Mr. Zurcher never sought accolades; yet he has been honored several times for his excellence in journalism and broadcasting. He is the recipient of an Emmy award, was honored with the Award for Excellence in Broadcasting from the Cleveland Assoc. of Broadcasters, and has been inducted into the Cleveland Press Club Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor of Neil Zurcher—family man, journalist, TV reporter and author—upon the joyous occasion of this 75th birthday. His chronicles of his travels across Ohio inspire, entertain and educate, creating a sense of wonder, unity and community. We look forward to learning about his travels for the next million miles.

HONORING ALLAN W. PURDY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Allan W. Purdy, the founding president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). On October 13, 2010, this strong advocate for higher education passed away at 96. He dedicated his life to removing financial barriers to education and helping students access awards, scholarships, and financial aid.

Purdy's life experiences strongly influenced his passion for financial aid and serving students. He graduated from high school in the middle of the Great Depression and worked his way through college with the help of the National Youth Administration, a newly created national work program for students. He earned a mere \$15 a month, which paid for his graduate degree from the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri.

After graduation, Purdy served his country in the U.S. Navy as a PT boat captain during World War II. After the war, he returned to the University of Missouri to work as an extension horticulturist. In this position, he toured the state helping farmers resolve problems with their crops. Here, he saw firsthand the number of qualified students who lacked the financial resources to attend college and vowed to advocate on their behalf for more grants and work aid. The University of Missouri's president promoted him to assistant to the dean of the College of Agriculture, which led to his role in creating a department in the president's office to coordinate scholarships, jobs, and loans for all the students on campus.

Under the direction of the University of Missouri's president, Purdy began meeting with other aid administrators in the Midwest and helped form the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in 1962. During this time, Congress was working on student aid issues and looked to the six regional, financial associations for suggestions. In hope of creating a more unified voice, Purdy strongly advocated for a national structure. In 1966, the regional representatives created the National Student Financial Aid Council, and Allan